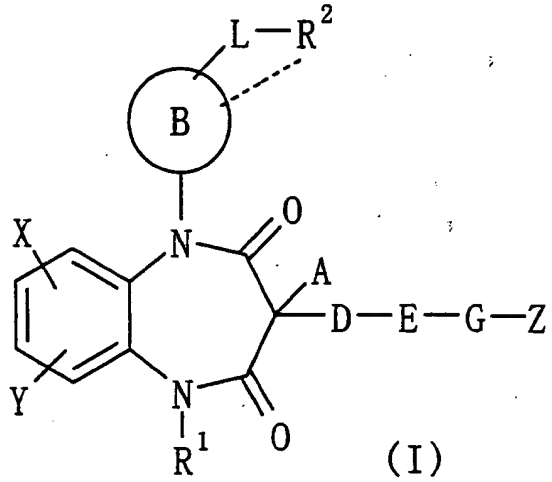
In the Claims

Please substitute the following claims 1-7, 9, 12 and 16 for the claims 1-7, 9, 12 and 16 now pending in the above-identified application.

Please cancel claims 11 and 17 without prejudice to the filing of future continuing applications.

1. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the formula (I)



(I)

wherein ring B represents ~~a cyclic hydrocarbon group which may have substituent(s);~~ **an alicyclic hydrocarbon group composed of 3 to 14 carbon atoms or an aromatic hydrocarbon group composed of 6 to 14 carbon atoms,**

each of which group may have 1 to 4 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, phenyl group, benzyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, phenoxy group, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy groups, formyloxy group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy groups, C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, hydroxy group, mercapto group, cyano group, nitro group, carboxyl group, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, benzoyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, phenoxycarbonyl group, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-

carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, sulfo group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups, benzoyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{3-14} cycloalkyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, imidazol-1-yl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxyphenyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-C_{1-6} alkoxy, and mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-carbonyloxy;

Z represents (1) hydrogen atom or

(2) ~~a cyclic group which may have substituent(s);~~ 2a) alicyclic hydrocarbon groups composed of 3 to 14 carbon atoms, 2b) aromatic hydrocarbon groups composed of 6 to 14 carbon atoms, 2c) 5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic groups having 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur atoms other than carbon atom(s), or 2d) bi- or tricyclic aromatic condensed heterocyclic groups which are formed by condensing 2 or 3 of the "monocyclic aromatic heterocyclic rings", bi- or tricyclic aromatic condensed heterocyclic groups which are formed by condensing 1 or 2 of the "monocyclic aromatic heterocyclic rings" and benzene ring and partially reduced rings thereof,

each of which group may have 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of oxo group, thioxo group, halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, phenyl group, benzyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups,

halogeno-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, phenoxy group, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy groups, formyloxy group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy groups, C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, hydroxy group, mercapto group, cyano group, nitro group, carboxyl group, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, benzoyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, phenoxycarbonyl group, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, sulfo group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups, benzoyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{3-14} cycloalkyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, imidazol-1-yl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxyphenyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-C_{1-6} alkoxy, and mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-carbonyloxy;

R^1 represents (1) hydrogen atom, (2) ~~a hydrocarbon group which may have substituent(s),~~

(2a) an aliphatic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms,

(2b) an alicyclic hydrocarbon group having 3 to 10 carbon atoms,

(2c) a C_{6-14} aryl group or (2d) a C_{7-14} aralkyl group,

wherein each of the above (2a), (2b), (2c) and (2d) may have 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of 1) halogen atoms, 2) nitro group, 3) cyano group, 4) imino group, 5) 5a) amino group which may have 1 or 2 substituents selected from (i) C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{6-14} aryl groups, C_{7-14} aralkyl groups which may be substituted by 1 to 5 of halogen atoms or C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, (ii) formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, C_{6-14} aryl-carbonyl groups, (iii) C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl groups, (iv) sulfo group, C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfonyl groups, C_{6-14} aryl-sulfonyl groups, and (v) C_{1-6} alkylamino-carbonyl groups, and 5b) pyrrolidinyl group, piperidyl group, morpholinyl group, thiomorpholinyl group, 4-methylpiperidyl group, and 4-phenylpiperidyl group, 6) hydroxy group which may have a substituent selected from the group consisting of (i) C_{1-6} alkyl groups, (ii) C_{6-10} aryl groups and (iii) C_{7-14} aralkyl groups, each of which group may have 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, hydroxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, carboxyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, pyrrolidyl group, piperidyl group, morpholinyl group, thiomorpholinyl group, 4-methylpiperidyl group, 4-phenylpiperidyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, phenoxy group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyloxy groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyloxy groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6}

alkyl-carbonylamino groups, formyloxy group, and C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy groups, wherein the C_{6-10} aryl groups and the C_{7-14} aralkyl groups may further have 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl groups and halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and (iv) acyl groups selected from the group consisting of formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, benzoyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, benzyloxycarbonyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, each of which group may further have 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, hydroxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, carboxyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, pyrrolidyl group, piperidyl group, morpholinyl group, thiomorpholinyl group, 4-methylpiperidyl group, 4-phenylpiperidyl group, 4-benzyloxycarbonylpiperidyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, phenoxy group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyloxy groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyloxy groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, formyloxy group, and C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyloxy groups, 7) carboxyl group which may be esterified, 8) carbamoyl group and thiocarbamoyl group, each of which group may have substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of 8a) C_{1-6} alkyl

groups, 8b) benzyl group, 8c) phenyl group which may have 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy groups, hydroxy group, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, carboxyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, nitro group and cyano group, 8d) 5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic groups having 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur atoms other than carbon atom(s), bi- or tricyclic condensed heterocyclic groups which are formed by condensing the "5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic rings", and bi- or tricyclic aromatic condensed heterocyclic groups which are formed by condensing the "5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic ring(s)" and benzene ring, each of which heterocyclic groups may have 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, phenyl group, benzyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, phenoxy group, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy groups, formyloxy group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy groups, C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, hydroxy group, mercapto group, cyano group, nitro group, carboxyl group, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, benzoyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, phenoxycarbonyl group, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl

groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, sulfo group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups, benzoyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{3-14} cycloalkyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, imidazol-1-yl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxyphenyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-C_{1-6} alkoxy, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-carbonyloxy, oxy group and pyrrolidinyl group, 9) C_{3-6} cycloalkyl groups, 10) C_{3-6} cycloalkenyl groups, and 11) 5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic groups having 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur atoms other than carbon atom(s), bi- or tricyclic condensed heterocyclic groups which are formed by condensing the "monocyclic heterocyclic rings", and bi- or tricyclic aromatic condensed heterocyclic groups which are formed by condensing the "monocyclic heterocyclic ring(s)" and benzene ring, each of which heterocyclic groups may have 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, phenyl group, benzyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, phenoxy group, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy groups, formyloxy group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy groups, C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, hydroxy group, mercapto group, cyano group, nitro group, carboxyl group, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, benzoyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, phenoxycarbonyl group, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6}

alkyl-carbonylamino groups, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, sulfo group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups, benzoyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{3-14} cycloalkyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, imidazol-1-yl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxyphenyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-C_{1-6} alkoxy, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-carbonyloxy, oxy group and pyrrolidinyl group, and wherein each of the above (2c) and (2d) may further have 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl group(s), halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl group(s), and C_{6-14} aryl group(s) may have 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy groups, hydroxy group, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, carboxyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, nitro group and cyano group,

(3) ~~a heterocyclic group which may have substituent(s)~~ 5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic groups having 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur atoms other than carbon atom(s), bi- or tricyclic condensed heterocyclic groups which are formed by condensing the "5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic rings", and bi- or tricyclic aromatic condensed heterocyclic groups which are formed by condensing the "5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic ring(s)" and benzene ring,

each of which heterocyclic groups may have 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, phenyl group, benzyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, phenoxy group, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy groups, formyloxy group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy groups, C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, hydroxy group, mercapto group, cyano group, nitro group, carboxyl group, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, benzoyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, phenoxycarbonyl group, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, sulfo group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups, benzoyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{3-14} cycloalkyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, imidazol-1-yl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxyphenyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-C_{1-6} alkoxy, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-carbonyloxy, oxy group and pyrrolidinyl group, or

(4) an acyl ~~group;~~ group selected from the group consisting of formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, benzoyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, benzyloxycarbonyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, each of which group may further have 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, hydroxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups,

carboxyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, pyrrolidyl group, piperidyl group, morpholinyl group, thiomorpholinyl group, 4-methylpiperidyl group, 4-phenylpiperidyl group, 4-benzyloxycarbonylpiperidyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, phenoxy group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyloxy groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyloxy groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, formyloxy group, and C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyloxy groups;

R^2 represents (I) amino group which may have ~~substituent(s)~~ 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of (1) (1a) an aliphatic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, (1b) an alicyclic hydrocarbon group having 3 to 10 carbon atoms, (1c) a C_{6-14} aryl group or (1d) a C_{7-14} aralkyl group,

wherein each of the above (1a), (1b), (1c) and (1d) may have 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of 1) halogen atoms, 2) nitro group, 3) cyano group, 4) imino group, 5) 5a) amino group which may have 1 or 2 substituents selected from (i) C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{6-14} aryl groups, C_{7-14} aralkyl groups which may be substituted by 1 to 5 of halogen atoms or C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, (ii) formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, C_{6-14} aryl-carbonyl groups, (iii) C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl groups, (iv) sulfo group, C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfonyl groups, C_{6-14} aryl-sulfonyl groups, and (v) C_{1-6} alkylamino-carbonyl groups, and 5b) pyrrolidinyl group, piperidyl group, morpholinyl group, thiomorpholinyl group, 4-methylpiperidyl

group, and 4-phenylpiperidyl group, 6) hydroxy group which may have a substituent selected from the group consisting of (i) C_{1-6} alkyl groups, (ii) C_{6-10} aryl groups and (iii) C_{7-14} aralkyl groups, each of which group may have 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, hydroxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, carboxyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, pyrrolidyl group, piperidyl group, morpholinyl group, thiomorpholinyl group, 4-methylpiperidyl group, 4-phenylpiperidyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, phenoxy group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyloxy groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyloxy groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, formyloxy group, and C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy groups, wherein the C_{6-10} aryl groups and the C_{7-14} aralkyl groups may further have 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl groups and halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and (iv) acyl groups selected from the group consisting of formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, benzoyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, benzyloxycarbonyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, each of which group may further have 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, hydroxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy

groups, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, carboxyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, pyrrolidyl group, piperidyl group, morpholinyl group, thiomorpholinyl group, 4-methylpiperidyl group, 4-phenylpiperidyl group, 4-benzyloxycarbonylpiperidyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, phenoxy group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyloxy groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyloxy groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, formyloxy group, and C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyloxy groups, 7) carboxyl group which may be esterified, 8) carbamoyl group and thiocarbamoyl group, each of which group may have substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of 8a) C_{1-6} alkyl groups, 8b) benzyl group, 8c) phenyl group which may have 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy groups, hydroxy group, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, carboxyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, nitro group and cyano group, 8d) 5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic groups having 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur atoms other than carbon atom(s), bi- or tricyclic condensed heterocyclic groups which are formed by condensing the "5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic rings",

and bi- or tricyclic aromatic condensed heterocyclic groups which are formed by condensing the "5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic ring(s)" and benzene ring, each of which heterocyclic groups may have 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, phenyl group, benzyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, phenoxy group, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy groups, formyloxy group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy groups, C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, hydroxy group, mercapto group, cyano group, nitro group, carboxyl group, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, benzoyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, phenoxycarbonyl group, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, sulfo group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups, benzoyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{3-14} cycloalkyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, imidazol-1-yl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxyphenyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-C_{1-6} alkoxy, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-carbonyloxy, oxy group and pyrrolidinyl group, 9) C_{3-6} cycloalkyl groups, 10) C_{3-6} cycloalkenyl groups, and 11) 5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic groups having 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur atoms other than carbon atom(s),

bi- or tricyclic condensed heterocyclic groups which are formed by condensing the "5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic rings", and bi- or tricyclic aromatic condensed heterocyclic groups which are formed by condensing the "5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic ring(s)" and benzene ring, each of which heterocyclic groups may have 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, phenyl group, benzyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, phenoxy group, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy groups, formyloxy group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy groups, C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, hydroxy group, mercapto group, cyano group, nitro group, carboxyl group, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, benzoyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, phenoxycarbonyl group, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, sulfo group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups, benzoyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{3-14} cycloalkyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, imidazol-1-yl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxyphenyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-C_{1-6} alkoxy, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-carbonyloxy, oxy group and pyrrolidinyl group, and wherein each of the above (1c) and (1d) may further have 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected

from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl group(s), halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl group(s), and C_{6-14} aryl group(s) may have 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy groups, hydroxy group, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, carboxyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, nitro group and cyano group, (2) 5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic groups having 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur atoms other than carbon atom(s), bi- or tricyclic condensed heterocyclic groups which are formed by condensing the "5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic rings", and bi- or tricyclic aromatic condensed heterocyclic groups which are formed by condensing the "5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic ring(s)" and benzene ring, each of which heterocyclic groups may have 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, phenyl group, benzyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, phenoxy group, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy groups, formyloxy group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy groups, C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, hydroxy group, mercapto group, cyano group, nitro group, carboxyl group, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, benzoyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, phenoxycarbonyl group, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group,

mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, sulfo group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups, benzoyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{3-14} cycloalkyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, imidazol-1-yl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxyphenyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-C_{1-6} alkoxy, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-carbonyloxy, oxy group and pyrrolidinyl group, and (3) acyl groups selected from the group consisting of formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, benzoyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl groups, piperidin-4-ylcarbonyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, and mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, each of which groups may further have 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, hydroxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, carboxyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, pyrrolidinyl group, piperidyl group, morpholinyl group, thiomorpholinyl group, 4-methylpiperidyl group, 4-phenylpiperidyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, phenoxy group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyloxy groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyloxy groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups,

formyloxy group, and C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy groups; or (II) 5 to 7-membered nitrogen-containing heterocyclic groups which may have 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur atoms other than the nitrogen atom(s) having a bond or rings formed by condensing the 5 to 7-membered nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group with benzene or pyridine, wherein the heterocyclic groups may have 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, phenyl group, benzyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, phenoxy group, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy groups, formyloxy group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy groups, C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, hydroxy group, mercapto group, cyano group, nitro group, carboxyl group, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, benzoyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, phenoxycarbonyl group, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, sulfo group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups, benzoyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{3-14} cycloalkyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, imidazol-1-yl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxyphenyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-C_{1-6} alkoxy, and mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-carbonyloxy;

D represents a bond or a divalent ~~group;~~ group, wherein the divalent group is a linear divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms which may have 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of (1) C_{1-6} alkyl groups, (2) halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, (3) phenyl group, (4) benzyl group, (5) 5a) amino group which may have 1 or 2 substituents selected from (i) C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{6-14} aryl groups, C_{7-14} aralkyl groups which may be substituted by 1 to 5 of halogen atoms or C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, (ii) formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, C_{6-14} aryl-carbonyl groups, (iii) C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl groups, (iv) sulfo group, C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfonyl groups, C_{6-14} aryl-sulfonyl groups, and (v) C_{1-6} alkylamino-carbonyl groups, and 5b) pyrrolidinyl group, piperidyl group, morpholinyl group, thiomorpholinyl group, 4-methylpiperidyl group, and 4-phenylpiperidyl group, (6) hydroxy group which may have a substituent selected from the group consisting of (i) C_{1-6} alkyl groups, (ii) C_{6-10} aryl groups and (iii) C_{7-14} aralkyl groups, each of which group may have 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, hydroxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, carboxyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, pyrrolidyl group, piperidyl group, morpholinyl group, thiomorpholinyl group, 4-methylpiperidyl group, 4-phenylpiperidyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, phenoxy group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyloxy groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyloxy groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, formyloxy group, and C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy groups, wherein the C_{6-10} aryl groups and the C_{7-14} aralkyl groups may further have 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl groups and halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and (iv) acyl groups selected from the group consisting of formyl group, C_{1-6}

alkyl-carbonyl groups, benzoyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, benzyloxycarbonyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, each of which group may further have 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, hydroxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, carboxyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, pyrrolidyl group, piperidyl group, morpholinyl group, thiomorpholinyl group, 4-methylpiperidyl group, 4-phenylpiperidyl group, 4-benzyloxycarbonylpiperidyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, phenoxy group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyloxy groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyloxy groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, formyloxy group, and C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyloxy groups, and (7) carbamoyl group and thiocarbamoyl group, each of which group may have substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of 7a) C_{1-6} alkyl groups, 7b) benzyl group, 7c) phenyl group which may have 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy groups, hydroxy group, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, carboxyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, nitro group and cyano group, 7d) 5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic groups having 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur atoms other than carbon atom(s), bi- or tricyclic condensed heterocyclic groups which are formed by condensing the "5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic rings", and bi- or tricyclic aromatic condensed heterocyclic groups which are formed by condensing the "5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic ring(s)" and benzene ring, each of which heterocyclic groups may have 1 to 5

substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, phenyl group, benzyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, phenoxy group, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy groups, formyloxy group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy groups, C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, hydroxy group, mercapto group, cyano group, nitro group, carboxyl group, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, benzoyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, phenoxycarbonyl group, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, sulfo group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups, benzoyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{3-14} cycloalkyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, imidazol-1-yl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxyphenyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-C_{1-6} alkoxy, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-carbonyloxy, oxy group and pyrrolidinyl group,

wherein the divalent group may contain C_{3-6} cycloalkylenes, phenylenes, -O-, -S-, or -N(R^a)- wherein R^a represents (1) hydrogen atom or (2) (2a) an aliphatic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, (2b) an alicyclic hydrocarbon group having 3 to 10 carbon atoms, (2c) a C_{6-14} aryl group or (2d) a C_{7-14} aralkyl group,

wherein each of the above (2a), (2b), (2c) and (2d) may have 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of

1) halogen atoms, 2) nitro group, 3) cyano group, 4) imino group,

5) 5a) amino group which may have 1 or 2 substituents selected from (i) C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{6-14} aryl groups, C_{7-14} aralkyl groups which may be substituted by 1 to 5 of halogen atoms or C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, (ii) formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, C_{6-14} aryl-carbonyl

groups, (iii) C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl groups, (iv) sulfo group, C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfonyl groups, C_{6-14} aryl-sulfonyl groups, and (v) C_{1-6} alkylamino-carbonyl groups, and

5b) pyrrolidinyl group, piperidyl group, morpholinyl group, thiomorpholinyl group, 4-methylpiperidyl group, and 4-phenylpiperidyl group,

6) hydroxy group which may have a substituent selected from the group consisting of (i) C_{1-6} alkyl groups, (ii) C_{6-10} aryl groups and (iii) C_{7-14} aralkyl groups, each of which group may have 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, hydroxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, carboxyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, pyrrolidyl group, piperidyl group, morpholinyl group, thiomorpholinyl group, 4-methylpiperidyl group, 4-phenylpiperidyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, phenoxy group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyloxy groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyloxy groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, formyloxy group, and C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy groups,

wherein the C_{6-10} aryl groups and the C_{7-14} aralkyl groups may further have 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl groups and halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and

(iv) acyl groups selected from the group consisting of formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, benzoyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, benzyloxycarbonyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, each of which group may further have 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms,

hydroxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, carboxyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, pyrrolidyl group, piperidyl group, morpholinyl group, thiomorpholinyl group, 4-methylpiperidyl group, 4-phenylpiperidyl group, 4-benzyloxycarbonylpiperidyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, phenoxy group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyloxy groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyloxy groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, formyloxy group, and C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyloxy groups,

7) carboxyl group which may be esterified,

8) carbamoyl group and thiocarbamoyl group, each of which group may have substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of 8a) C_{1-6} alkyl groups, 8b) benzyl group, 8c) phenyl group which may have 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy groups, hydroxy group, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, carboxyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, nitro group and cyano group,

8d) 5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic groups having 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur atoms other than carbon atom(s),

bi- or tricyclic condensed heterocyclic groups which are formed by condensing the "5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic rings",

and bi- or tricyclic aromatic condensed heterocyclic groups which are formed by condensing the "5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic ring(s)" and benzene ring,

each of which heterocyclic groups may have 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, phenyl group, benzyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, phenoxy group, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy groups, formyloxy group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy groups, C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, hydroxy group, mercapto group, cyano group, nitro group, carboxyl group, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, benzoyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, phenoxycarbonyl group, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, sulfo group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups, benzoyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{3-14} cycloalkyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, imidazol-1-yl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxyphenyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-C_{1-6} alkoxy, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-carbonyloxy, oxy group and pyrrolidinyl group,

9) C_{3-6} cycloalkyl groups,

10) C_{3-6} cycloalkenyl groups, and

11) 5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic groups having 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur atoms other than carbon atom(s),

bi- or tricyclic condensed heterocyclic groups which are formed by condensing the "monocyclic heterocyclic rings",

and bi- or tricyclic aromatic condensed heterocyclic groups which are formed by condensing the "monocyclic heterocyclic ring(s)" and benzene ring,

each of which heterocyclic groups may have 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, phenyl group, benzyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, phenoxy group, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy groups, formyloxy group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy groups, C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, hydroxy group, mercapto group, cyano group, nitro group, carboxyl group, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, benzoyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, phenoxycarbonyl group, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, sulfo group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups, benzoyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{3-14} cycloalkyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, imidazol-1-yl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxyphenyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-C_{1-6} alkoxy, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-carbonyloxy, oxy group and pyrrolidinyl group,

and wherein each of the above (2c) and (2d) may further have 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl group(s), halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl group(s), and C_{6-14} aryl group(s) may have 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy groups, hydroxy group, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, carboxyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, nitro group and cyano group;

E represents a bond, -CO-, -CON(R^a)-, -COO-, -N(R^a)CON(R^b)-, -N(R^a)COO-, -N(R^a)SO_2-, -N(R^a)-, -O-, -S-, -SO- or -SO_2- (~~R~~^{a} wherein R^a and R^b each independently

~~represents hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group which may have substituent(s));~~ **have the same meaning as the above R^a;**

G represents a bond or a divalent ~~group;~~ **group as defined for the above D;**

L represents a bond or a divalent ~~group;~~ **group as defined for the above D;**

A represents hydrogen atom or a substituent **selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, phenyl group, benzyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, phenoxy group, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy groups, formyloxy group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy groups, C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, hydroxy group, mercapto group, cyano group, nitro group, carboxyl group, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, benzoyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, phenoxycarbonyl group, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, sulfo group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups, benzoyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{3-14} cycloalkyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, imidazol-1-yl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxyphenyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-C_{1-6} alkoxy, and mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-carbonyloxy**;

X and Y each represents hydrogen atom or an independent ~~substituent;~~ **substituent as defined for the above A;**

and ..... represents that R^2 and an atom on ring B may form a ~~ring,~~ **ring selected from the group consisting of tetrahydroisoquinoline, tetrahydroquinoline, isoindoline, indoline, 2,3-dihydrobenzothiazole, 2,3-dihydrobenzoxazole, 3,4-dihydro-2H-1,4-benzothiazine, 3,4-**

dihydro-2H-1,4-benzoxazine, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline or 2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1,4-benzoxazepine,

each of which may have 1 to 4 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, phenyl group, benzyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, phenoxy group, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy groups, formyloxy group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy groups, C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, hydroxy group, mercapto group, cyano group, nitro group, carboxyl group, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, benzoyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, phenoxycarbonyl group, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, sulfo group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups, benzoyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{3-14} cycloalkyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, imidazol-1-yl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxyphenyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-C_{1-6} alkoxy, and mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-carbonyloxy,

or a salt thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein E is -CO-, -$CON(R^a)$-, -COO-, -$N(R^a)CON(R^b)$-, -$N(R^a)COO$-, -$N(R^a)SO_2$-, -$N(R^a)$-, -O-, -S-, -SO- or -SO_2- ~~(R^a~~ wherein R^a and R^b ~~each independently represents hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group which may have substituent(s))~~ have the same meanings as described in claim 1.

3. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein L is (1) a bond or,

(2) ~~a divalent hydrocarbon group~~ **a linear divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms** which may contain -O- or -S- and may possess 1 to 5 substituents selected from

i) a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

ii) a halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl group,

iii) phenyl group,

iv) benzyl group,

v) **v-1)** amino group which may have ~~substituent(s),~~ **1 or 2 substituents selected from (i) C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{6-14} aryl groups, C_{7-14} aralkyl groups which may be substituted by 1 to 5 of halogen atoms or C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, (ii) formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, C_{6-14} aryl-carbonyl groups, (iii) C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl groups, (iv) sulfo group, C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfonyl groups, C_{6-14} aryl-sulfonyl groups, and (v) C_{1-6} alkylamino-carbonyl groups, and**

v-2) pyrrolidinyl group, piperidyl group, morpholinyl group, thiomorpholinyl group, 4-methylpiperidyl group, and 4-phenylpiperidyl group,

vi) hydroxy group which may have ~~substituent(s), and~~ **a substituent selected from the group consisting of (i) C_{1-6} alkyl groups, (ii) C_{6-10} aryl groups and (iii) C_{7-14} aralkyl groups, each of which group may have 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, hydroxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, carboxyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, pyrrolidyl group, piperidyl group, morpholinyl group, thiomorpholinyl group, 4-methylpiperidyl group, 4-phenylpiperidyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, phenoxy group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyloxy groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-**

thiocarbamoyloxy groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, formyloxy group, and C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy groups,

wherein the C_{6-10} aryl groups and the C_{7-14} aralkyl groups may further have 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl groups and halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and

(iv) acyl groups selected from the group consisting of formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, benzoyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, benzyloxycarbonyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, each of which group may further have 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, hydroxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, carboxyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, pyrrolidyl group, piperidyl group, morpholinyl group, thiomorpholinyl group, 4-methylpiperidyl group, 4-phenylpiperidyl group, 4-benzyloxycarbonylpiperidyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, phenoxy group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyloxy groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyloxy groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, formyloxy group, and C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyloxy groups,

vii) carbamoyl groups or thiocarbamoyl groups which each may be substituted by:

a) a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

b) a phenyl group which may have ~~substituent(s),~~ 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy groups, hydroxy group, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino

groups, carboxyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, nitro group and cyano group, or

c) ~~a heterocyclic group which may have substituent(s)~~ 5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic groups having 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur atoms other than carbon atom(s),

bi- or tricyclic condensed heterocyclic groups which are formed by condensing the "5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic rings",

and bi- or tricyclic aromatic condensed heterocyclic groups which are formed by condensing the "5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic ring(s)" and benzene ring,

each of which heterocyclic groups may have 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, phenyl group, benzyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, phenoxy group, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy groups, formyloxy group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy groups, C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, hydroxy group, mercapto group, cyano group, nitro group, carboxyl group, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, benzoyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, phenoxycarbonyl group, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, sulfo group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups, benzoyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{3-14} cycloalkyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, imidazol-1-yl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxyphenyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-C_{1-6} alkoxy, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-carbonyloxy, oxy group and pyrrolidinyl group.

4. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein Z is ~~a cyclic group which may have substituent(s)~~ 1) alicyclic hydrocarbon groups composed of 3 to 14 carbon atoms, 2) aromatic hydrocarbon groups composed of 6 to 14 carbon atoms, 3) 5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic groups having 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur atoms other than carbon atom(s), or 4) bi- or tricyclic aromatic condensed heterocyclic groups which are formed by condensing 2 or 3 of the "monocyclic aromatic heterocyclic rings", bi- or tricyclic aromatic condensed heterocyclic groups which are formed by condensing 1 or 2 of the "monocyclic aromatic heterocyclic rings" and benzene ring and partially reduced rings thereof,

each of which group may have 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of oxo group, thioxo group, halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, phenyl group, benzyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, phenoxy group, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy groups, formyloxy group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy groups, C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, hydroxy group, mercapto group, cyano group, nitro group, carboxyl group, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, benzoyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, phenoxycarbonyl group, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, sulfo group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups, benzoyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{3-14} cycloalkyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, imidazol-1-yl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxyphenyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-C_{1-6} alkoxy, and mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-carbonyloxy .

5. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein D is a divalent group **as described in claim 1 which is** bonded to the ring through a carbon atom.

6. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein ring B is benzene ring which may have ~~substituent(s)~~ **1 to 4 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, phenyl group, benzyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, phenoxy group, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy groups, formyloxy group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy groups, C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, hydroxy group, mercapto group, cyano group, nitro group, carboxyl group, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, benzoyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, phenoxycarbonyl group, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, sulfo group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups, benzoyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{3-14} cycloalkyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, imidazol-1-yl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxyphenyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-C_{1-6} alkoxy, and mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-carbonyloxy;** and L is a C_{1-6} alkylene group.

7. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein G represents ~~a divalent hydrocarbon group which may have substituent(s)~~ **a linear divalent**

hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms which may have 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of

(1) C_{1-6} alkyl groups, (2) halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, (3) phenyl group, (4) benzyl group, (5) 5a) amino group which may have 1 or 2 substituents selected from (i) C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{6-14} aryl groups, C_{7-14} aralkyl groups which may be substituted by 1 to 5 of halogen atoms or C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, (ii) formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, C_{6-14} aryl-carbonyl groups, (iii) C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl groups, (iv) sulfo group, C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfonyl groups, C_{6-14} aryl-sulfonyl groups, and (v) C_{1-6} alkylamino-carbonyl groups, and

5b) pyrrolidinyl group, piperidyl group, morpholinyl group, thiomorpholinyl group, 4-methylpiperidyl group, and 4-phenylpiperidyl group,

(6) hydroxy group which may have a substituent selected from the group consisting of (i) C_{1-6} alkyl groups, (ii) C_{6-10} aryl groups and (iii) C_{7-14} aralkyl groups, each of which group may have 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, hydroxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, carboxyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, pyrrolidyl group, piperidyl group, morpholinyl group, thiomorpholinyl group, 4-methylpiperidyl group, 4-phenylpiperidyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, phenoxy group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyloxy groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyloxy groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, formyloxy group, and C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy groups,

wherein the C_{6-10} aryl groups and the C_{7-14} aralkyl groups may further have 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl groups and halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and

(iv) acyl groups selected from the group consisting of formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, benzoyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, benzyloxycarbonyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, each of which group may further have 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, hydroxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, carboxyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, pyrrolidyl group, piperidyl group, morpholinyl group, thiomorpholinyl group, 4-methylpiperidyl group, 4-phenylpiperidyl group, 4-benzyloxycarbonylpiperidyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, phenoxy group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyloxy groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyloxy groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, formyloxy group, and C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyloxy groups, and

(7) carbamoyl group and thiocarbamoyl group, each of which group may have substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of 7a) C_{1-6} alkyl groups, 7b) benzyl group, 7c) phenyl group which may have 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy groups, hydroxy group, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, carboxyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, nitro group and cyano group,

7d) 5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic groups having 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur atoms other than carbon atom(s), bi- or tricyclic condensed heterocyclic groups which are formed by condensing the "5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic rings", and bi- or tricyclic aromatic condensed heterocyclic groups which are formed by condensing the "5 or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic ring(s)" and benzene ring, each of which heterocyclic groups may have 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl groups, phenyl group, benzyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, phenoxy group, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy groups, formyloxy group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyloxy groups, C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, halogeno-C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, hydroxy group, mercapto group, cyano group, nitro group, carboxyl group, formyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl groups, benzoyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl groups, phenoxycarbonyl group, amino group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, formylamino group, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino groups, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl groups, sulfo group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups, benzoyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{3-14} cycloalkyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, imidazol-1-yl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, hydroxyphenyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl groups, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-C_{1-6} alkoxy, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-carbonyloxy, oxy group and pyrrolidinyl group, and ring B does not form a ring together with R^2.

8. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein A is hydrogen atom, ring B is benzene ring, Z is a phenyl group substituted by a halogen, and R^1 is a C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{7-14} aralkyl

group which each may be substituted by substituent(s) selected from (1) hydroxy, (2) phenyl, (3) a C_{1-6} alkyl carbonyl or a C_{6-14} aryl-carbonyl, and (4) amino groups which may be substituted by a C_{1-6} alkyl sulfonyl or a C_{6-14} aryl-sulfonyl.

9. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein X and Y each independently is hydrogen atom, a halogen, hydroxy, a C_{1-6} alkoxy, a halogeno-C_{1-6} alkoxy, a C_{7-14} aralkyloxy, a benzoyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy, a hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy, a C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy, a C_{3-14} cycloalkyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy, an imidazol-1-yl-C_{1-6} alkoxy, a C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy, or a hydroxyphenyl-C_{1-6} alkoxy;

ring B is benzene ring which may be substituted by a C_{1-6} alkoxy, or tetrahydroisoquinoline ring or isoindoline ring which is formed by combination with R^2;

Z is a C_{6-14} aryl group, a C_{3-10} cycloalkyl group, piperidyl group, thienyl group, furyl group, pyridyl group, thiazolyl group, indanyl group or indolyl group which may have 1 to 3 substituents selected from a halogen, formyl, a halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl, a C_{1-6} alkoxy, a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl, oxo and pyrrolidinyl;

A is hydrogen atom;

D is a C_{1-6} alkylene group;

G is a bond, or a C_{1-6} alkylene group which may contain phenylene and may be substituted by phenyl;

R^1 is hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{2-6} alkenyl group, a C_{6-14} aryl group or a C_{7-14} aralkyl group which each may be substituted by substituent(s) selected from (1) a halogen, (2) nitro, (3) amino which may have 1 or 2 substituents selected from a C_{1-6} alkyl which may be substituted by a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl, benzoyloxycarbonyl and a C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl, (4) hydroxy which may be substituted by (i) a C_{1-6} alkyl which may be substituted by hydroxy, a C_{1-6} alkyl-

carbonyl, carboxy or a C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl, (ii) phenyl which may be substituted by hydroxy, (iii) benzoyl or (iv) a mono- or di- C_{1-6} alkylamino-carbonyl, (5) a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, (6) phenyl which may be substituted by hydroxy or a halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl and (7) thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, indolyl or benzyloxycarbonylpiperidyl;

R^2 is (1) unsubstituted amino group, (2) piperidyl group or (3) amino which may have 1 or 2 substituents selected from (i) benzyl, (ii) a C_{1-6} alkyl which may be substituted by amino or phenyl, (iii) a mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl, or a mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-thiocarbamoyl, (iv) a C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl, (v) a C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfonyl, (vi) piperidylcarbonyl and (vii) a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl which may be substituted by a halogen or amino;

E is a bond, -CON(R^a)-, ~~-N(R^a)CO-,~~ -N(R^a)CON(R^b)- ~~(R^a~~ **wherein R^a** and R^b each represents hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl ~~group);~~ **group;**

L is a C_{1-6} alkylene group which may contain -O- and may be substituted by a C_{1-6} alkyl.

10. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein X and Y each independently is hydrogen atom, a halogen, hydroxy or a C_{1-6} alkoxy;

ring B is benzene ring or, by combination with R^2, tetrahydroisoquinoline ring or isoindoline ring;

Z is phenyl group which may be substituted by a halogen, D is a C_{1-6} alkylene group, G is a C_{1-6} alkylene group;

R^1 is a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{7-14} aralkyl group which each may be substituted by substituent(s) selected from (1) hydroxy, (2) phenyl and (3) amino which may be substituted by a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl or a C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl;

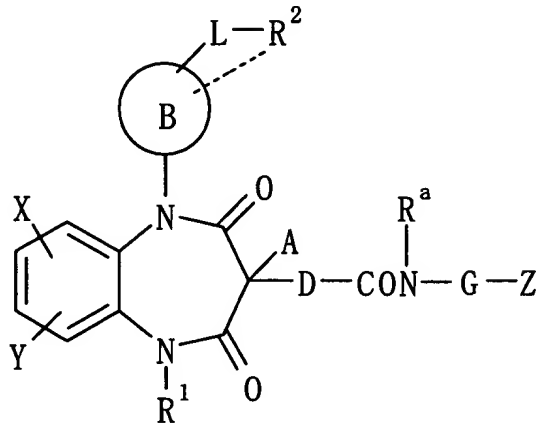
R^2 is unsubstituted amino group;

E is -CONH-;

L is a C_{1-6} alkylene group.

Claim 11 (Cancelled)

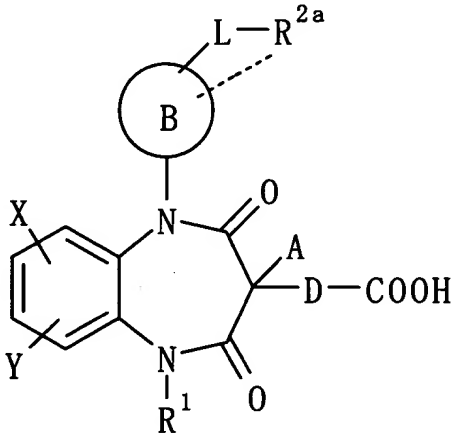
12. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a compound of the formula (I-a)



(I-a)

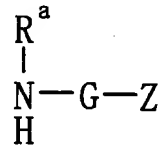
~~[wherein~~ **wherein** the symbols have the same meanings as described ~~above]~~ **in claim 1** or a salt thereof which comprises:

reacting a compound represented by the formula (IIa)



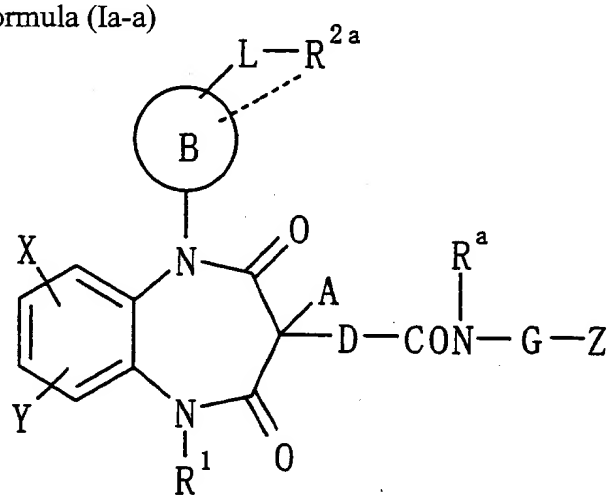
(IIa)

~~[wherein~~ wherein R^{2a} ~~represents amino group which may be protected and substituted,~~ has the same meaning as R^2 which may have a protective group, and other symbols have the same meanings as described in claim 1 ~~1~~], a reactive derivative thereof or a salt thereof, with a compound represented by the formula



(III)

~~[wherein~~ wherein the symbols have the same meanings as described in the claim 1 ~~1~~] or a salt thereof to produce a compound of the formula (Ia-a)



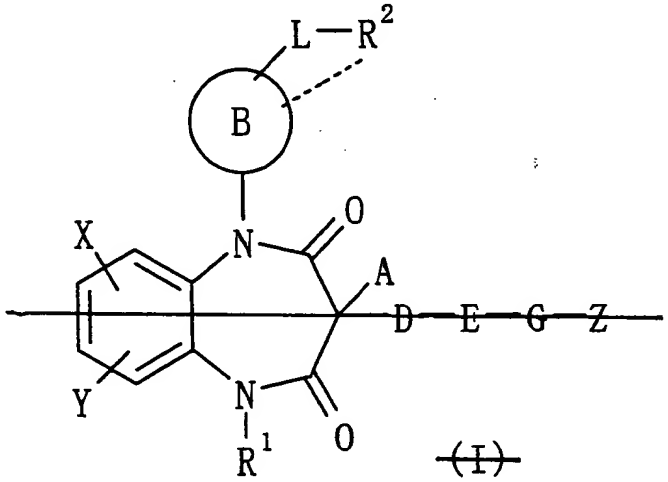
(Ia-a)

~~[wherein~~ wherein the symbols have the same meanings as described above ~~above~~] or a salt thereof, and optionally, subjecting it to de-protecting reaction.

13. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound according to claim 1 or a salt thereof and a carrier.

Claims 14 and 15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~preventing or~~ treating ~~diabetes, obesity,~~ **diabetes or** diabetic complications ~~or intractable diarrhea~~ comprising administering an effective amount of a compound ~~represented by the formula (I)~~



~~(I)~~

~~wherein ring B represents a cyclic hydrocarbon group which may have substituent(s);~~

~~Z represents hydrogen atom or a cyclic group which may have substituent(s);~~

~~R^1 represents hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbon group which may have substituent(s), a heterocyclic group which may have substituent(s) or an acyl group;~~

~~R^2 represents amino group which may have substituent(s);~~

~~D represents a bond or a divalent group;~~

~~E represents a bond, $-CO-$, $-CON(R^a)-$, $-COO-$, $-N(R^a)CON(R^b)-$, $-N(R^a)COO-$, $-N(R^a)SO_2-$, $-N(R^a)-$, $-O-$, $-S-$, $-SO-$ or $-SO_2-$ (R^a and R^b each independently represents hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group which may have substituent(s));~~

~~G represents a bond or a divalent group;~~

~~L represents a bond or a divalent group;~~

~~A represents hydrogen atom or a substituent;~~

~~X and Y each represents hydrogen atom or an independent substituent;~~

~~and ..... represents that R^2 and an atom on ring B may form a ring,~~

according to claim 1,

or a salt thereof

to a mammal in need thereof.

Claims 17 and 18 (Cancelled)